

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1799, September 12, 1953

MAKING A DESERT BLOOM AGAIN

Remarkable finds in a land once flowing with milk and honey

BACK from an expedition to the remote Southern Negeb (on the borders of Israel and Jordan) is Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, the American soil expert; and he has spoken to a C.N. correspondent of some of his remarkable discoveries in a region which is now largely desert, from the borders of Egypt to the shores of the Dead Sea, but was once prosperous with vineyards and orchards—a "land flowing with milk and honey."

This distinguished American expert, who devotes his life to turning the waste places of the world into fruitful ones, saw in the Negeb thousands and thousands of little, regularly-spaced mounds composed of flint fragments. They covered the country for miles like a sea of neglected anthills.

Local tradition, he discovered, has it that the Nabataeans, who settled in this area long before the time of Christ, used these little mounds as dew mounds, and planted an olive tree or a grapevine in the middle of each.

The dew condensed on the flinty surface of the mound, and trickled down to the roots of the tree.

OUT OF THE ROCK

Turning up his Bible for a possible clue to this custom, Dr. Lowdermilk found in Deuteronomy 32, 13 a reference to "honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock." In chapter 8 of the same Book he found a reference to "water out of the rock of flint"; and in Psalm 114 to a flint turned into "a fountain of waters."

But the flints of the Negeb have become choked with the sand of the centuries so that no water can now collect on their surfaces.

To prove whether the tradition concerning the ancient Nabataeans

was right, and to try out their methods today, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations is to clear some of the flint mounds and plant some olive trees in them.

But an even more exciting discovery was made by Dr. Lowdermilk as he penetrated the ancient land of the Nabataeans, and came nearer to the ruins of their once-famous capital of Petra, "the rose red city, half as old as time."

WATER EXPERTS

The Nabataeans, whose golden age corresponds to that of China—between 200 B.C. and A.D. 200—were expert at storing water in their sandy soil.

All along the lower slopes of the desert hills are thousands of cisterns, dug in the chalky limestone. Small open ditches were dug to lead the water in the rainy season into the cisterns from the wadi, or watercourse.

Instead of soaking uselessly into the sand it was stored in the cool depths of the cisterns (some of which could hold as much as 70,000 cubic feet of water) for the season when the wadi was dry.

Dr. Lowdermilk is recommending to the F.A.O. that the cisterns be cleaned out and kept permanently filled with water. But the method of filling is not to be the ancient one of the Nabataeans, which required the services of hundreds of labourers to watch the ditches and keep them clear.

BULLDOZER IN DESERT

As an experiment, a bulldozer was brought into action and a temporary dam of earth made in the wadi just below the mouths of two cisterns. A flood of rainwater poured into the mouths of the cisterns, and then by its own power swept away the dam, leaving the wadi at the same level as before.

In five hours the cisterns were filled, and this corner of the Negeb desert will have a supply of water for many months.

Dr. Lowdermilk believes that the methods of the ancient water engineers were sound, and cannot be improved on. Modern devices can however make the desert blossom a little quicker.



Highland fling

The gay tartans and velvet jackets worn by these children made this lively dance one of the highlights of a gathering in Perthshire.

3140 MILES BY TANDEM

A young Manchester couple, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weavell, have arrived in Vancouver after a 78-day tandem journey right across Canada—a ride of 3140 miles. They are to settle down in the West.

After crossing the Atlantic by ship and completing their journey on two wheels, they found that the whole trip had only cost them £229 (with only two stops for punctures).

FAIR COP

While a Cornish policeman was pumping up his bike he rested his helmet on a hedge. Later when he was directing traffic he felt something tickling his head, and on removing his helmet once more found a live adder coiled inside.

SHOES IN THE NEWS

CHILDREN in the Somerset town of Street have been having a grand time.

Supplied free with shoes made by a new process in a local factory, they were invited to kick old tins and walk in puddles just as they liked; moreover, they were rewarded with a shilling each time they went back to the factory for a wear-and-tear inspection.

AN 80-year-old retired miner, Mr.

George Critchley, of Standish, near Wigan, has worn clogs all his life. But the other day he went on a coach trip to Morecambe and Blackpool with several other old miners, and for the first time wore shoes which he bought for a few shillings soon after the Boer War. It was also his first visit to the seaside.

SHOE-REPAIRERS in Ashford, Kent, are co-operating with the town's Road Safety Committee in sticking 10,000 safety slogans on the soles of boots and shoes.

LOST IN THE ZOO

During the holidays it was nothing out of the ordinary for as many as fifty children to get lost in the London Zoo in a single day. But adults also get lost there.

"Sometimes we get husbands or wives who have lost each other in the crowd," the C.N. correspondent was told by Mr. John Webb, supervisor of the First-Aid Post to which the children are taken.

"One woman came in a day or two ago saying she had mislaid her husband and stated that, if he turned up to claim her, he would find her having a cup of tea at the nearby buffet!

"We even get lost grandfathers," Mr. Webb added. "One day a 90-year-old man came in saying he had lost contact with the rest of his family. We gave him some refreshments and sat him down on a seat alongside a lot of lost kiddies. He was duly 'claimed' by his family later!"

GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Mr. James Smith, 71-year-old postman on the Island of Stroma, picked a sprig of white heather on the moors and posted it to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, whose Castle of Mey looks across to Stroma.

In acknowledging the gift, through her Lady-in-Waiting, the Queen Mother told how touched she was by his loyal thought to her and how delighted to receive this token of goodwill from a Stroma neighbour.

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BALKAN STATES ARE MORE FRIENDLY

CN Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Balkan peoples, courageous and reckless, have in the past often been the cause of trouble in Europe, and it has gained them a reputation for squabbling. But some observers believe they may be outgrowing it. There are signs of friendlier feelings even among States separated by the Iron Curtain, and they may mean a lessening of tension throughout Europe.

The Greeks, who are in the Western school of democracy, and the Bulgarians, in the Communist sphere, have shown that in certain circumstances they can co-operate.

Albania, a lonely little satellite of Russia cut off from Russia by other Balkan neighbours, has suggested that differences of opinion among them could be ironed out peacefully.

Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Greece are making their friendship pact a model of smooth-working agreement.

Rumania, also inside the Soviet sphere of influence, has agreed with Balkan States beyond it that frontier disputes should be settled by investigation and discussion.

Disputes over the precise position of frontiers in the Balkans have caused "incidents" highly dangerous to peace ever since 1946.

One example of the trouble they cause is known to diplomats as the case of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma. These letters of the Greek alphabet have been given to three small islands on the River Evros between Bulgaria and Greece.

Since the frontier was fixed along the line of the Evros, 33 years ago, the course of the river has changed. To make matters more difficult it

GREEK DIVERS FOR AUSTRALIA?

Sponge fishermen from the Aegean Sea may emigrate to Australia to dive for pearls.

This may provide a solution to two problems, for the sponge-fishing community of the tiny island of Kalymnos find that the sea no longer provides them with a living, while Australia is looking for people to exploit the rich pearl shell beds off its north-western coast.

Before the war Japanese divers went down for the shell, sometimes as deep as 20 fathoms, and they have so far proved irreplaceable. (Malays specially brought in for the job could go no deeper than 14 fathoms.)

It is proposed to take a number of the Kalymnos fishermen to Broome, in Western Australia, to see the work expected of them and to test their ability.

INDUSTRIOUS CANADA

Canada now ranks third in the world's list of trading nations, following the United States and Great Britain.

Canada ranks second in world gold and zinc production, third in silver, fourth in wheat growing, and fifth in fishing.

Canada also produces more than one-half of the world's newsprint, half of its platinum, two-thirds of its asbestos, and nearly all of its nickel.

dries up in the summer and the falling waters leave Alpha, Beta, and Gamma isolated territories which are claimed by both sides.

After years of clashes between frontier garrisons the two Governments concerned came to the conclusion during the summer that the sensible way to deal with the argument over boundaries was to set up a joint commission.

It was at least a small step towards co-operation that could make it easier for other moves of a friendly and more understanding nature.

The Soviets, who also want the friendship of the Balkan peoples, view with some suspicion any overtures from Balkan States outside their influence to others which are behind the Iron Curtain. And it is unlikely that they would favour co-operation to an extent which might lead to a Balkan union.

RUSSIAN FEARS

The Russians, still full of resentment toward Marshal Tito for the way Yugoslavia discarded Soviet leadership five years ago, no doubt sometimes fear that other States may make a similar bid for independence.

Bulgaria and Albania seem particularly susceptible to persuasion from outside the Iron Curtain. But the Bulgarians have displayed persistent loyalty to Russia, based probably on their suspicion of Greek and Turkish aspirations.

Albania, the smallest of the Soviet satellites, has also been loyal to Moscow, despite her isolated position, but it is a country which might follow Yugoslavia's example and make a bid for more independence.

The recent pact between Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey came as an unpleasant shock to Albania. Poor, and with few firm friends, she felt that the pact was highly dangerous to herself.

BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING

This alarm is gradually fading. Moreover, Yugoslavia has an almost "elder sister" attraction for Albania, which very nearly became part of the Yugoslav federation after the war. This gives some basis for friendship and understanding.

Soviet Russia, on her side, has made a special gesture of consideration to Albania by promoting her diplomatic missions there to the rank of Embassy. It means that Russia considers even her smallest satellite of great importance.

None of the Western countries will interfere with the domestic policies of Albania. In the outcome the Albanian people alone can decide their path. This is true of all the Balkan States, and the sooner suspicion is replaced by friendly discussion the better for all of them it will be.

CELEBRATING A GREAT EVENT IN REPTON

The ancient Derbyshire town of Repton this week celebrates a great event in its story—indeed, the greatest. On Saturday a special thanksgiving service is to be held there to mark the 1300th anniversary of Christianity in Mercia, the biggest of the ancient kingdoms of Saxon England.

The conversion of this kingdom began when Prince Peada (eldest son of the pagan King Penda) married a princess of the converted Northumbria, a condition being that he and his people took the Faith.

Repton was then the capital of Mercia, and it is thought that the word was first preached at the spot

Like Father . . .



Ben Johnson of Cornwall, five times Champion Town Crier, finds his eleven-year-old son, Benny, good opposition while practising at Hastings.

where the town's ancient cross now stands.

Within a few years a church and monastery were built—the Westminster Abbey of Mercia—and its buildings stood until they were sacked by the Danes 200 years later.

Another 100 years passed before the church was rebuilt by the Saxons, and this in turn was rebuilt by the Normans and the medieval builders who followed them in succeeding centuries.

The Normans also built a Priory, but its buildings suffered the usual fate at the Dissolution although some of the remains, happily, are preserved within the famous Repton School.

Repton's venerable church as it stands today is the growth of many centuries; but its Saxon crypt, burial place of early kings and princes, is a direct link with the great event which is being commemorated this week—the bringing of the Good News from Galilee to Mercia.

It is part of the first church of the converted Saxons in the Midlands—a rare and precious corner of England!

Have You Ordered Your CN?

Ask your newsagent to reserve a copy for you each week, and so avoid disappointment.

News from Everywhere

ANGLER'S DELIGHT

An angler at Whitby cast out his line with 12 feather-covered hooks and reeled in eleven mackerel.

Prizes of a permanent wave in a competition at Bognor Regis were won by two men.

Girls have been admitted to Rugeley Grammar School, Staffordshire, for the first time since the days of Elizabeth I.

OUTSIZE GOLDFISH

Mr. King of Tipton, Staffordshire, caught a foot-long goldfish in a local pool and sent it to Dudley Zoo. An official thinks it is probably the biggest in England.

A new suspension bridge is to replace the transporter bridge over the River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal between Runcorn and Widnes.

Members of an expedition which has just returned to New Zealand with 1600 botanical specimens after climbing Singi Himio, a 23,545-foot Himalayan peak, saw brown eagles with a wing span of six feet flying at a height of 14,000 feet.

Crops of wheat and hay have been harvested on a former open-cast coal site at Swing Bridge, Cossall (Nottinghamshire), in the first year after the replacing of the top soil.

Chesterfield Rural Council made a profit last year of £225 from crops grown on disused rubbish heaps.

GEOFF AND THE BEANSTALK

A runner bean planted in a Derby garden by ten-year-old Geoffrey Collett has reached a height of 17 feet.

The outlet tunnel of a new 540,000,000-gallon reservoir in Hertfordshire has been built with the aid of a quantity of cast-iron segments from London's Tube railways.

Germany is translating more foreign books into its own language than any other country in the world.

MORE SCOUTS

Latest census of the world's Boy Scouts shows a record total of 5,561,993—an increase of 401,846 in the past two years.

A hundred Italian Alpine soldiers each in full-field uniform and carrying 60 lbs. of equipment climbed Mont Blanc recently.

The Hampshire village of Selborne is to display a map showing places associated with Gilbert White, the naturalist.

More than a million people go on conducted tours every year through the United Nations headquarters at New York.

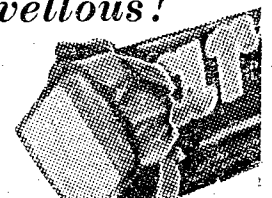
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The Children's Newspaper, September 12, 1953

SIX PICTURES FOR CLASSROOMS

A set of six fine wall pictures depicting historic occasions has been published by the International Wool Secretariat. The top half of each picture is a coloured reproduction of a painting and below, in bold type, is a description of the event.

The occasions illustrated are: Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar; Napoleon at the Battle of Wagram; The Meeting of Garibaldi and King Victor Emmanuel; Abraham Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address; Rembrandt painting the Syndics of the Drapers' Guild; and the first performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Also portraying the clothes worn by these great men, the pictures make a handsome and interesting adornment for any classroom wall. The set can be obtained for five shillings from The International Wool Secretariat, 18-20 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

SPOTTERS WELCOME

A notice on Nottingham (Victoria) railway station states: "Our engines are proud to have their speeds, numbers, and wheel arrangements recorded in your note-books."

It also adds the following good advice: "Keep to the platforms; don't jump on the mail-bags; make sure your viewpoint is a safe one; leave barrows and equipment alone."

PULPIT RECORD

To illustrate a Sunday sermon, the minister of Grange Church, Grangemouth, played a record of Jo Stafford singing "It is no secret what God can do."

A gramophone was placed in the pulpit, and after the reading of an appropriate text, the song was played to the congregation. The minister next gave a sermon on the song's theme and then played the record once more.

HARDY ANNUALS

The great advantage of Annuals over most other books lies in their pleasing variety of subjects, all very carefully chosen to make a healthy appeal to young people with a sense of fun and adventure.

To be sure, some Annuals are designed for boys and others for girls. But many girls browse through their brothers' books and, if the truth be known, there are quite a number of boys who—in secret perhaps—spend many an entertaining hour with such a girls' favourite as School Friend Annual.

Its stories and pictures are, of course, of a less masculine order than those of the new Champion and Lion annuals; but a good laugh is a good laugh, and it would be a dull boy indeed who could not chuckle at the "young ladies" in School Friend Annual 1954.

Any family would be well advised to possess all three. Champion, Lion, and School Friend—as well as the Super Cinema Annual 1954 which contains a programme appealing to everyone who goes to the cinema. The School Friend Annual costs 6s. 6d.; the others 7s. each.

DIONNE QUINS TO PART

The famous Dionne quintuplets will soon be separated for the first time in their lives, when Marie, enters the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of the Holy Sacrament at Quebec City.

Three of the remaining 19-year-old sisters are going back to their studies in home economics and music at the Institut Familial at Nicolet, Quebec; and the fifth, Yvonne, is to study art in Montreal.

ROYAL ROPE

Australia's League of Ancient Mariners have made a magnificent bell-rope for the Royal Yacht. It has more than a quarter of a million knots in it.



Denmark's farming princes

Prince Ingolf and Prince Christian, nephews of King Frederick of Denmark, lend a helping hand with the harvest on a farm at North Zealand.

THE SCOUTS WERE PREPARED

It takes more than a General Strike to worry British Boy Scouts. Hundreds of them visited the Continent while France was paralysed by the great strike, but they still had what 17-year-old Keith Gibbs of the 1st Burgess Hill, Sussex, Scout Group, described as "a most wonderful time."

His troop flew across the Channel and spent a fortnight cycling 700 miles on a camping tour which included a journey through three countries in one day—France, Luxemburg, and Belgium.

Their biggest surprise on this Continental tour (which cost them £12 each) was to meet so many English people—especially other Scouts.

FAREWELL TO GRAINS AND DRAMS

An Inspector of Weights and Measures who has "every sympathy with anyone who endeavours to study our legal British system of weights and measures," points out errors in our article of August 15.

To clear up any confusion he writes that: "The dram is an avoirdupois weight and is one sixteenth of an ounce or one 256th of a pound in normal everyday transactions."

"The drachm is an apothecaries' weight of 60 grains and is one-eighth of an ounce (apoth)."

"The ounce apothecaries and ounce troy are the same and equal 480 grains, but the ounce avoirdupois being one-sixteenth of a pound of 7000 grains is therefore equal to 437½ grains."

"The drachm is therefore a little over twice the weight of a dram."

BRAVE MOTHER CAT

In defence of her kittens, a six-year-old tortois hell cat on a farm at Lightcliffe, Yorkshire, killed a fox about three times her size.

She lives outdoors most of the time, and had her kittens in a clump of nettles close to the farm buildings. There the farmer, who had been taking her food every morning, found a big dog fox lying dead beside her.

The flattened nettles and grass around her showed that there had been a terrific fight, which, unhappily, the kittens had not survived, though the cat herself was quite unhurt.

JETS IN HISTORIC FLY-PAST

Next week is Battle of Britain Week, and on Tuesday there will be a commemorative fly-past, consisting (for the first time) entirely of jet planes, except for a Hurricane and a Spitfire.

These two veterans, representing the fighters of 13 years ago, will have pride of place, flying over London before the sky is filled with the whine of 252 Meteors, Sabres, Canberras, Seahawks, as well as U.S. Sabres.

This will be the biggest force of jets ever seen over London. The formations, at alternate heights of 1700 and 1200 feet, and flying at 345 m.p.h., will follow one another at half-minute intervals.

Their route will be from South-end to Westminster.

NEW-OLD CHURCH IS READY

About 18 months ago the CN wrote of the proposal to remove the seven-centuries-old church of St. Andrews at Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, stone by stone to a new site on higher ground. Now the church is ready for re-consecration, and the ceremony will take place on Saturday, attended by the Bishops of Wakefield and Pontefract, the Provost of Wakefield, and the Dean and Chapter of York.

The first baby to be baptised in the "new" St. Andrews (on September 13) belongs to the couple whose marriage was the last to be solemnized in the "old" church at Easter 1952.



Forming fours

The top picture shows Phillip, Mark, Judith, and Alison Sara, the three-year-old quads of Bellingen, New South Wales, who are on a visit to England. In the lower picture are four sleepy lion cubs at Dublin Zoo.

The new fast-writing

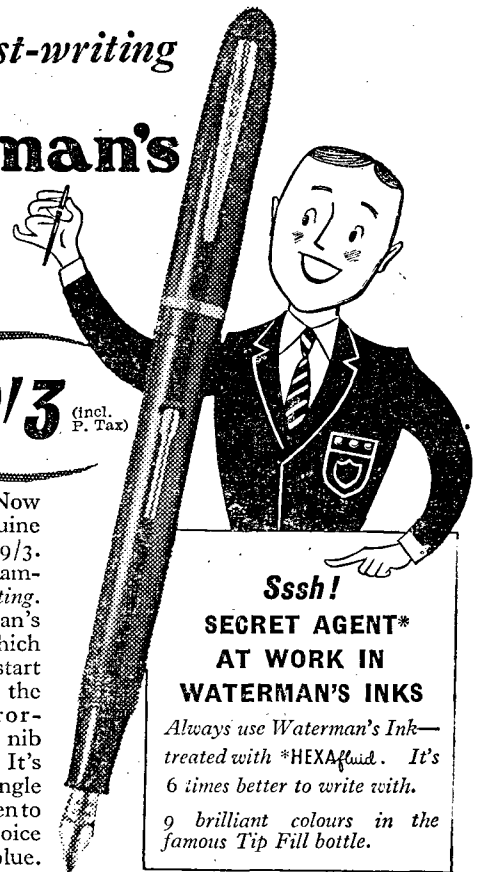
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NEW ZEALAND'S PEAK OF PERIL



The 8260-foot Mount Egmont, where Everest-conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary learned to climb, is one of the world's loveliest peaks. But it is also one of the most tragic, and not long ago claimed no fewer than eight lives in a week.

Ages past, before either Maori or white man lived in New Zealand, Egmont belched forth steam, flames, showers of ash and pebbles; floods of white-hot lava poured down her sides, destroying all life around.

Little wonder, then, that in Maori lore its slopes are tapu—sacred, and not to be approached. But today more human feet tramp Egmont's summit than any similar mountain.

That is because it is so easy to reach, and apparently easy to climb. As Sir Edmund Hillary has said: "You usually get disasters in 'easy' mountains because people on them have insufficient experience."

A dozen towns and a score of

villages lie within 50 miles of its summit, and roads go 3000 feet up, through superb forest scenery, to huts and chalets. Above them gleams the tantalising, always snow-clad, summit.

In summer ascent is easy. Marks and signposts show the way, and the going is usually good. So good, in fact, that babes-in-arms have been carried to the top, though there is no record of prams being pushed there!

At other seasons it is a different story. Winter ascents are gruelling, dangerous, with shifting snow and treacherous ice. None but expert climbers—or the foolhardy—venture then on Egmont.

RESCUE WORK

The first recorded tragedy on Egmont was in 1891, when a lone climber from Wellington slipped on hard ice near the summit and perished. In more recent times there have been many fatalities. Many other climbers have been seriously injured; others, swept thousands of feet by avalanches, have escaped more lightly.

Local Alpine Clubs now have a perfect system for search and rescue work on Egmont. Squads are equipped with portable radio, first-aid kits, and other up-to-date gear. This greatly reduces the hazards, but the Ministry of Internal Affairs is working with the clubs to lessen the hazards and improve the rescue work.

The Maoris dubbed the mountain Father of the Land, and wove many legends round it. In sober fact, Egmont is indeed "father" to a province, which now contains some of the world's richest dairy-lands. Much of the soil there came from the mountain, in showers of volcanic ash. This soil is watered by countless streams, also springing from the mountain.

So, for all its grim record, Mount Egmont is not only a superb piece of landscape, and nursery for mountaineers, but a priceless national asset.

COLUMN OF FRIENDSHIP

A 250-foot column of aluminium which will be surmounted by an eagle is slowly rising in Australia's federal capital of Canberra in readiness for the Queen to unveil before the end of this year.

Dedicated to the friendship between the United States and Australia, it is a monument of gratitude for America's help during the war. The courtyard round the column will be American soil.

In Brisbane, Sydney, and Adelaide, too, the United States is being given its permanent footholds on the Australian continent.

In the Air

By the C N Flying Correspondent

Aviation's Shop Window

FARNBOROUGH, cradle of British aviation since the turn of the century, is once again the focal point of the world of aviation. This week thousands of experts from all corners of the earth are converging on "The Shop Window of the British Aircraft Industry" to study the progress made in 1953.

Foreign air missions can see (within security limitations) the features of new fighters, bombers, and training aircraft, while overseas technicians are here to study the thousand-and-one instruments and "gadgets" displayed in the huge canvas Exhibition Hall.

Well over 250 British companies are represented, showing items varying in size from complete four-jet bombers to tiny, radar-controlled maps for fighters.

THE main theme of this year's Farnborough Air Display, the greatest flying exhibition and display in the world, is Britain's famous jet planes, both military and civil.

The importance of the air display to our aircraft industry is tremendous. Demonstrations here resulted in Alexander Kartveli, designer of the famous line of Republic fighters, deciding that the British Sapphire jet engine was what he wanted to power America's new Thunderstreak jet fighter; they also helped to convince U.S.A.F. officials that the Canberra was supreme in the field of light bombers.

Civil airline officials, too, have flocked to Farnborough to find transport planes and freighters to suit air routes all over the world. Many openly state that nowhere else can they hope to find planes to compete with British designs.

PLANES they want to see are the propjet-propelled Bristol Britannia, supreme among long-range transports for range, economy, and load-carrying capacity, and able to cruise at 360 m.p.h. with 104 passengers; and the Comet, soon to go into service in its improved Series 2 and 3 versions. Already Series 1 and 1A Comets flying in the colours of BOAC, Air France, and the R.C.A.F. have completed between them over five million miles of successful service.

The Vickers Viscount, shortly to fly in Canada with Trans-Canada Air Lines, the D.H. Dove, the Heron—designed for use in countries with the minimum of maintenance facilities—and the Percival Prince, are others that they will be inspecting.

Great interest is also being shown in the new range of helicopters on display.

ALTHOUGH it is too early to assess the reaction of prospective customers from overseas, there is every indication that, once again, Farnborough will prove to be a highly profitable "shop window" for Britain's most rapidly-expanding export industry.

C N Bookshelf

IN THE CANADIAN WILDS

The Secret Silver Canyon, by Don Hillson (Frederick Muller, 8s. 6d.)

FIVE children who have helped a Mountie to fight a forest fire have become separated from him in the canoe he lent them, and have to fend for themselves in the Canadian wilds. Their situation is complicated by dangerous wild animals, Redskin outlaws, and, not least, by becoming imprisoned in caves.

MADCAP OF THE SEVENTIES

The Runaway, A Victorian Story for the Young, with illustrations by Gwen Raverat (Gerald Duckworth, 10s. 6d.)

TO be a madcap girl in the seventies, and to run away from school, required some nerve, as this reprint of a popular Victorian tale shows. You were surrounded by suspicious authorities and incredible governesses.

The story, first published in 1872, was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Anna Hart, who must have been ahead of her time, for it is surprisingly modern in tone.

HOW TO RUN WILD

Curlew Jon, by Maribel Edwin (Thomas Nelson, 8s. 6d.)

ALL who are afflicted with shyness will sympathise with the lad in this well-written yarn.

Though Jon wanted to make friends, he was always missing the chance and being sorry about it afterwards. As he had been ill, the doctor had advised his parents to take him to some suitable place where he could "run wild." So they took him to the West Highlands.

The friends he eventually made—especially the animal ones—make this a charming story.

"THAR SHE BLOWS!"

Whaler Round the Horn, by Stephen W. Meader (Museum Press, 7s. 6d.)

DESPITE its terrors and hardships, the sea in the days of sail had an irresistible call for boys.

As the New England lad in this story said: "I don't aim to spend all my days hoeing... Those islands in the South Seas—I've dreamed about 'em nights! An' I guess the quickest way to see 'em is aboard a whale ship."

He saw them in good earnest, for he was cast away on one for weeks with a Hawaiian boy and shared all the excitement of the old-time whale-hunters.

IN THE HIMALAYAS

The Lost Valley, by Hector Hawton (Hodder and Stoughton, 7s. 6d.)

COLONEL MAX MASTERTON appears again in an exciting story of intrigue set in a remote corner of the bleak Himalayas.

Dr. Peter Crayle and David Manton set out for the mysterious Golden Mountain, and become involved in a plot by foreign powers. They are captured and, with Crayle's children, Penny and Tony, are taken into the Lost Valley, where there is a civilisation long believed extinct.

The captives' adventures provide thrill upon thrill until Colonel Masterton satisfactorily rings down the curtain.

IN A DOOMED VALLEY

Village Under the Water, by Eric Leyland (Brockhampton Press, 5s.)

THERE are some refreshingly original ingredients in this yarn. Two English boys on holiday in Switzerland become involved with a Swiss friend in some mysterious happenings in a village which is to be "drowned" to make a new reservoir. This is certainly an out-of-the-ordinary tale.

FOUR-LEGGED SLEUTHS

Clever Mr. Twink, by Freda Hurt (Epworth Press, 7s. 6d.)

TALKING animals are not the easiest characters with which to people a full-length book, but this new writer has succeeded excellently with her tale (for younger children) of cat and dog detectives, and various other creatures.

DAYS OF SAIL

The Golden Monkey, by Captain Frank Knight (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.)

EVERYONE who loves to read of the great days of the wind-jammers will be gripped by this story of a London boy's voyage to Australia and back at the time of the gold rushes a century ago.

DANCING TO FAME

The Blue Train, by Joan Selby-Lowndes (Collins, 8s. 6d.)

HERE is a feast indeed for lovers of ballet—250 pages telling the fascinating story of the career of a little boy named Pat Kay from the time when he wanted to learn to dance until his triumph in *The Blue Train*, under his celebrated stage-name of Anton Dolin.

IN THE POT-HOLES

Peril in the Pennines, by Winifred Finlay (Harrap, 7s. 6d.)

HERE is an enthralling story set in the Ribblesdale and Ingleborough region of Yorkshire.

Peter, Bryan, Sally, and Gillian are on holiday and decide to do some "pot-holing." They befriend a blind gipsy, and through him learn a great deal of Romany language and folk lore, as well as knowledge of caves. Their experiences lead them into deep places and tight corners.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

THE STORY OF LAZY BUSH-TAIL, by Constance Woodhead (Warne, 3s. 6d.)

WE GO TO DENMARK, by Mary Dunn (Harrap, 8s. 6d.)

KING ARTHUR and His Knights of the Round Table—a Puffin Book—by Roger Lancelyn Green (Penguin Books, 2s. 6d.)

WORDS AND PICTURES, a book for the very young (Collins, 6s.)

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF PRAYERS, chosen by Enid Blyton (Muller, 3s. 6d.)

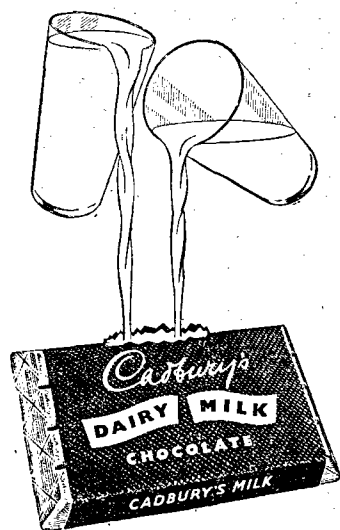
KNITTING FOR GIRLS—a Junior Teach Yourself Book—by Isobel Horner (English Universities Press, 7s. 6d.)

THE PURPLE MUFFIN BOOK, by Ann Hogarth (University of London Press, 6s. 6d.)

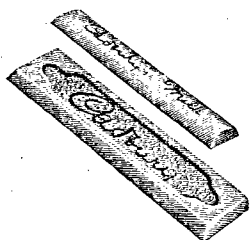
BLACK BEAUTY, by Anna Sewall, adapted for young children (Publicity Products, 4s. 6d.)

THE TIP-TOP ANNUAL, with stories, verses, and puzzles (Epworth Press, 7s. 6d.)

FISHING FOR BEGINNERS, by Maurice Wiggin (Phoenix House, 8s. 6d.)



Taste the
cream in
Cadburys!



Also in
penny and twopenny bars

GATEWAYS TO SUCCESS

5

12—College for the Distributive Trades

In the heart of London, only a few minutes' walk from Trafalgar Square, is an imposing building with a pillared front on the Charing Cross Road. Between two of the pillars is a balcony bearing the title: London County Council College for the Distributive Trades, 1938.

It claims to be the only college of its kind in the world, as its Principal, R. G. Magnus-Hannaford, told me proudly, and has an intake of nearly 4000 students every year.

On the list of subjects—26 of them—are not only such items as Display, Footwear, Grocery, and Hardware, but also English, Law, Merchandise Management, Social History, and—yes—Fencing (to

help in teaching how to move correctly and gracefully).

A huge number of people in this country are engaged in the distributive trades—selling things from footballs to pots of jam; and like every other job this is becoming more and more specialised and complicated. So there are far more things about successful shop-keeping to be learned than ever there were in the old days.

They cannot all be learned in a classroom, of course, but the job which you intend to take up can be given a background of technical knowledge—of the goods you are to sell, and the way your particular line of trade is organised.

MANY stores have for years been running their own system of staff training. Nevertheless, the leaders in the Distributive Trades realised long ago that if the right sort of boy or girl is to be attracted, a real career with a future in it must be offered.

For such a career a professional standard must be reached, and that is where the groundwork, the wider base on which knowledge can be built, comes in. So at the College, and to some extent in many Technical Schools and Business Colleges throughout the land, this kind of training is being given.

There are three ways in which

the young idea is trained at the College. First of all there is a two-year course for the school-leavers of 15 and over who have already started work in a shop or store. These students do one half-day every week at the College during shop hours, being allowed special time off for this. Evening courses are also available.

If you become one of them you learn all about the goods you are selling, where they come from, how they are made or grow, and what are the things which affect them while in transit from a foreign land, or while in storage here.

You learn the day-to-day work, the "why and wherefore" of it, and the Retailing Arithmetic which is so important if you mean to get on in your job but which is so often neglected. English (because you need to be able to speak and write clearly and accurately), Department (for the ladies), and Hygiene are also taught.

There is also training in selling, of course, and geography in so far as it concerns the parts of the world where the goods you sell come from.

I HAD a look at several classes of teen-agers. One group was learning of the things which may go wrong with rice and other food-stuffs in warehouse or shop (or ship) and how to detect them.



Learning salesmanship. The conversation between the student and a potential customer is recorded by the machine on the right as an aid to correcting sales talk

Another class was engaged in studying the bones of the human foot. The students here were in the shoe trade and would have to advise people on what footwear to buy for themselves or their children. So it is as well for them to know something of how a foot is made.

To take another instance from the work of the over-fifteens, there is a special course for those wanting to go into the cycle trade. They learn first about the shop itself and when they must open and close it according to law. They learn about buying and methods of ordering; about storage and shop-soiled goods; how to dress a shop window; how to keep the books properly and how to treat both the new and regular customer.

This course occupies 24 evening lectures and covers just about everything they need to know—from how to spot counterfeit coins in change to knowledge of cycle clubs, cups, and competitions.

THE second way is by National Certificate which takes a year longer. It means six hours a week for at least 30 weeks a year and again is for those already in work and who come either on day-release or in the evenings only.

One third of the time is spent on learning about the particular commodity with which each student happens to be concerned. There are eight such subjects at present—Drapery, Women's and Children's Wear, Men's and Boys' Outfitting, Footwear, Furniture and Furnishings, Hardware and Ironmongery, Jewellery, and Bookselling.

THE rest of the time is spent on subjects to build up the mind: English, of course, Geography, and a choice of various subjects such as Display. There is a model shop downstairs in which students learn how to set up all manner of goods in order to attract customers. It may be almost anything from preparing a snow-scene in the Alps for winter-sports goods to the dressing of a window with special lighting to show off a particular fabric.

Other subjects to be chosen from include Economics and Statistics. Economics might be

called the study of how much things cost (and why) and what governs the public's spending habits. A study of Statistics shows how to understand and to put together the facts to be learned on all kinds of subjects by lists of carefully collected and accurate figures.

The National Certificate Course is run in about fifty towns up and down Great Britain and many visitors from abroad have come to the College to see how it is done. Every lecture attended and every demonstration given follows suggestions made by the various



Using a counting glass to count the threads of a piece of material which assists in the identification of different fabrics

Trade organisations concerned. So every item is closely related to practical experience of the job.

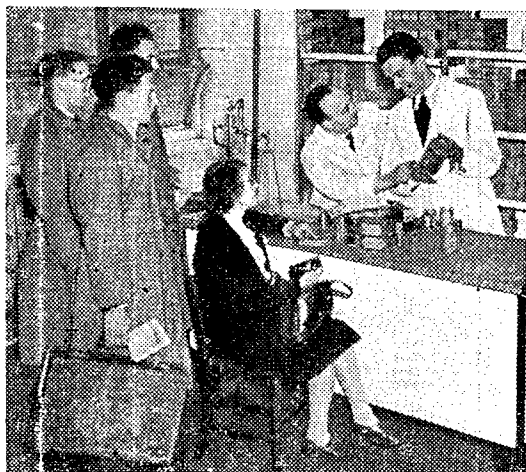
The biggest of the three courses is the Management Course, lasting five years. This is open only to selected students who already hold the National Certificate or have been specially chosen by their own firms as being promising people for the posts of manager or manageress.

Before starting there is a personal interview with four of the Governors of the College, who decide which candidates are suitable; for this is not merely a question of passing exams, but of being the right type.

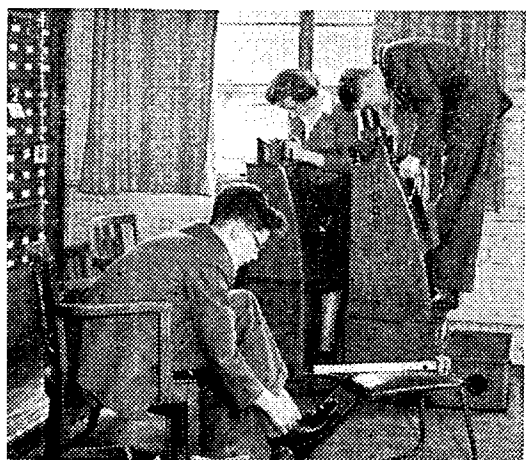
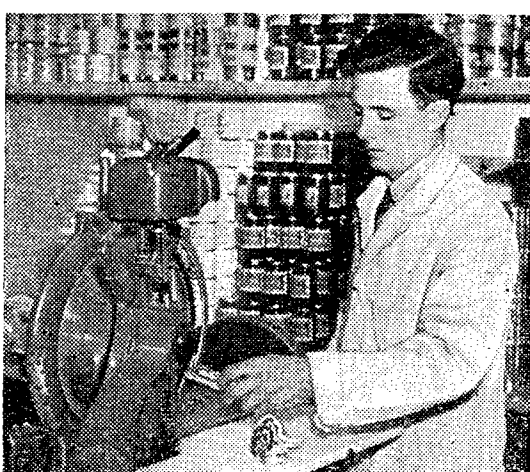
So you see that the boy or girl who has even the first of these three courses for a background goes on to work with a bigger, brighter, and much more interesting idea of the job than would be likely without it. A. V. I.



A textiles industry student examines the fibre of material under a microscope



The grocery trade's course has a fully-equipped shop at the college, and on the left we see an instructor demonstrating a point to a student. Right: learning to use the bacon-slicing machine



The students in the background are learning to use the Pedoscope which ensures correctly-fitting footwear



Arranging a display of accessories for an examination during the course on Display

The Children's Newspaper, September 12, 1953

THE DEMON BOWLER

FREDERICK ROBERT SPOFFORTH, who was born at Balmain, in New South Wales, on September 9 just a century ago, was the original Demon Bowler. Since his day there have been few bowlers as fast, and probably none more accurate nor more likely to trap a batsman by an unexpected and well-disguised change of pace.

When Spofforth went to school at Eglington College, Glebe Point, Sydney, the standard of Australian cricket was low. The few English sides which visited Australia were much too strong for the opposition, and no Test Matches were played.

It was after watching an English bowler named George Tarrant playing for one of these touring sides that Spofforth decided to

games he captured 107 wickets for 11 runs apiece!

In the following winter an English side, led by Lord Harris, toured Australia and lost the only Test Match. This game is sometimes called Spofforth's match, because of his 13 wickets for 110 runs. He also scored a useful 39, one of the highest scores of the game.

But his finest performance was in the Oval Test Match in 1882, when England lost for the first time in this country. England began their second innings needing only 85 to win.

It looked easy enough until Spofforth got to work. He was almost unplayable. England's last wicket fell at 77 in one of the most exciting finishes in cricket history. Spofforth took 14 wickets in the match—a Test record for many years.

Altogether he played in five Test series against England, taking 94 wickets at an average cost of 18.41 runs each. No wonder he was called The Demon.

His appearance helped him. He was over six feet tall, lean, dark, and swarthy, with a bristling moustache and fierce dark eyes. And even batsmen who were not nervous had difficulty in telling whether he was going to bowl a top-spinner, a vicious break-back, or a straight fast yorker.

The son of a Yorkshireman who had emigrated to Australia, Spofforth decided to settle in England when he was 33. He played for a short time for Derbyshire, and captained the county side in 1890. In that summer he played for Derbyshire against the Australians, and showed that he was still a great bowler by taking 9 wickets for 76 runs in the match.

Despite his fierce appearance on the field, Spofforth was a charming man and made many friends in England.

When he died—at Surbiton on June 4, 1926—cricket-lovers all over the world mourned the passing of one of the greatest bowlers of all time.

OLD BROCK, FRIEND OF FARMERS

"There are no badgers around here," said a Sussex countryman. A day or two later one was found eating grubs on his lawn.

A farmer at Chailey, also in Sussex, was equally astonished to find that all the wasps' nests on his farm had been attacked. Here was proof that only Old Brock, with his hard skin and a strange liking for wasps, bees, and honey, could have been responsible.

It is only in East Anglia and parts of Scotland that badgers are extremely rare. In the west country they are particularly numerous, and along the coast near Land's End there are 26 badger setts, spaced out at roughly one to the mile.

Inland, there are nearly a 100 more, some of them setts or fortresses which have been occupied for centuries.

BADGER CUBS

Badgers are increasingly common over most of the south and Midlands, and have enormously multiplied in the Lake District—where they used to be rare—within the last few years.

This is probably the best time of year to see badgers. Some schoolboys camping in Ashdown Forest recently encountered a party of badger cubs romping in the undergrowth late one evening.

A CN correspondent once found a badger scratching at the grass on his lawn at 10 o'clock one August evening; and children in a Somerset village persuaded a badger cub to swallow fruit cake one September evening.

The badger is normally the shyest of creatures, being quick to rush away when suspicious. But he is sometimes surprisingly bold in investigating objects he has never seen before—perhaps a parked bicycle, or even a man!

There is some evidence that he is short-sighted, relying on acute hearing and powerful sense of smell when out hunting.

WAR ON PESTS

Despite the damage done by a few rogue badgers in destroying poultry, most farmers are happy at the increase in the badger population. They do much useful work in the war against rabbits, rats, and mice—as well as wasps and other insect pests. The badger will even eat snakes, toads, and lizards.

But he does not confine himself to meat alone, for he will also eat roots, and grass, acorns and beechmast, and is not averse to apples and blackberries, while bluebell bulbs seem to be quite a favourite dish. In fact, there is probably no creature which, for its size, has such a large and varied appetite.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Eleven-year-old Jean Burgin of Cortworth Lane, Wentworth, Yorkshire, won both of the children's classes at the annual show of the village horticultural society.

Jean's father, who gained six firsts, gained top points in the vegetable section for the third year in succession, and her mother won the domestic section.

At the Royal Academy



Skaters, by Hendrik Avercamp (1585-1663)



A Rembrandt drawing of a seated man, probably an actor or a studio model



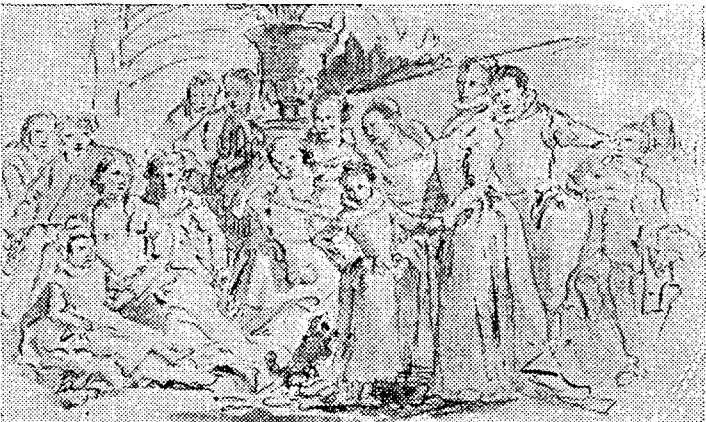
A woman walking, by Hans Holbein the Younger



Comedy, a symbolic sketch by Sir Joshua Reynolds



Girl knitting, by Van Den Eeckhout



A family group, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

These reproductions are from the wonderful collection of rough sketches and finished drawings by Old Masters now being shown in the Diploma Gallery of the Royal Academy. The exhibition, which will be open until October 25, represents most of the great European schools from the beginning of the 15th century.



abandon underarm bowling and become a really fast bowler. Later, watching the spin bowling of two other Englishmen—Southerton and Shaw—he saw that brains without pace could also get wickets. If he could combine the two, he decided, he would become a great bowler.

How well he succeeded can be judged from his performances in the first official Australian side to visit England, in 1878. The visitors were not treated very seriously until, at the end of May, they dismissed a strong M.C.C. side (including W. G. Grace) at Lord's for 33 and 19, beating them in a single day by nine wickets.

Spofforth's share was 11 wickets for 20 runs, including a hat-trick!

Many of the games on that tour were against local sides who were often allowed to bat 22 men, which helps to account for his astonishing record of 764 wickets at an average cost of 6.08 runs each. But even in the first-class

MARSHAL TITO'S YOUNG GUESTS

A party of British children whose fathers were killed during the war, fighting with the R.A.F. over Yugoslavia; have had a splendid holiday in Yugoslavia as the guests of Marshal Tito.

They stayed in one of the finest villas in the lovely seaside town of Dubrovnik and were taken on many excursions, including a visit to the island of Lokrum where Richard the First was rescued after being shipwrecked.

Yugoslav children gave a concert in their honour and many of them joined in their games.

EARLY PHONE BOOK

The discovery of a copy of the first telephone directory of Boston, Mass., is recorded in Cunard News, the house magazine of the famous shipping company.

Published in 1878, this slender phone book lists names of eight chemists, four grocers, and a few other retail shops, but none of the big business houses, apart from the Cunard company.

It seems, says the Cunard News, that in 1878 the telephone was still too much of a new-fangled novelty to attract any of the other big firms.

FISHING FOR CONGER

Many people who are fortunate enough to be on holiday in the West Country this month find that conger-fishing is a thrilling experience.

There are plenty of fishermen in the little towns along the Devon and Somerset coasts (writes a correspondent) who will take a visitor off-shore in a rowing-boat for an afternoon. They will also provide the bait and thick line, with its three-quarter pound weight and three large hooks, which is the best equipment for catching conger.

When hooked, the conger is a fighter, and will struggle violently until finally put in a sack in the bottom of the boat. The task of removing the hook and transferring to the sack is usually done by the fisherman, because it requires considerable skill to avoid being bitten.

The weights and sizes of conger vary, the average being between 10 and 20 pounds, and about 4 feet long; but there are monsters around 60 pounds which require much strength to bring in.

TOO BIG TO LAND

One old fisherman often tells of the 60-pounder he hooked when he was alone in his boat some years ago. He managed to get the conger aboard, but it fought so hard that he could not handle it.

In the end, knowing that it was a case of either the eel or himself going into the sea, he cut it loose and watched it disappear.

Of course, there is always the possibility that something else may find its way onto the line. That makes the sport even more fascinating. Then there is that feeling of pride when the catch is brought ashore, watched by a small crowd of spectators.

Though conger-fishing cannot compare with going after sharks or giant rays in the tropics, there is always the chance of plenty of excitement.

Steps to Sporting Fame



When George Robb joined Tottenham Hotspur last June, amateur football lost its best outside-left. Seventeen international caps testify to his prowess.



At the age of ten George played inside-right, but at Holloway Grammar School he became a centre-forward. He settled at inside left after joining Finchley, becoming a winger by chance while in the Royal Navy.



A football team was being made up and former players were asked to put their names against the various positions. Noting that there were several well-known names for inside-left, George made himself an outside-left.



Since demobilisation 27-year-old George Robb has been a history and games master at Christ's College, Finchley. His boys were delighted that the transfer to Tottenham would not take him away from the school.

HOPPING TIME AGAIN

Thousands of men, women, and children from London, and from Kent towns and villages, have once more been in the "hopper-camps," spending their days in the hop-gardens and their leisure in the woods and lanes surrounding the camps.

Hopping, possibly the first holiday with pay known to this country—for it is a holiday for the pickers and their children—has a language of its own.

The flower of the hop (the cone) is picked into baskets and measured into "tallies." The man who checks the measurements is the tally-man and not many years ago he used to mark a wooden tally (a flat stick) to show how many baskets of hops had been picked.

THE BIN-MAN

In some gardens the hops are picked into "bins" (canvas holders), but in East Kent baskets are used and the word bin survives in the name of the man in charge of a number of "alleys": the bin-man.

The hops are carried in "pokes" (large sacks) to the oast, where they are dried and pressed into "pockets," the long bags which can often be seen on their way by road and rail to store-houses in London.

Children in the gardens are always pleased to find a "hop-dog," which is not a dog at all but is a large furry caterpillar which lives on the leaves of the hop "bine."

NO SHORTAGE OF CASTOR OIL

An estimated record crop of 15 million lbs. of castor oil beans has been grown in the U.S. this year.

Most of the oil goes, not into medicine bottles, however, but into the making of lubricants, linoleum and oilcloth, paint, hair tonic, and so on.

GREAT ARCHITECT AND HIS TREASURE-HOUSE

September 10 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John Soane, a Reading stonemason's son who built the first Bank of England. He was one of the most celebrated architects of his day, yet time might have erased his memory as well as his major London works but for his zeal as a collector.

An elegant house in leafy Lincoln's Inn Fields remains his memorial. Sir John Soane built it, crammed it with treasures and oddities, and bequeathed it to the nation.

John Soane (who was baptised John Swan) cherished high standards from the moment of his boyhood departure from Reading. The City architect George Dance was his first master, and at 18 he entered the Royal Academy schools, winning the silver medal in 1772.

Then, at 23, this humble stonemason's son added the coveted gold medal, a "triumphal bridge" being his entry. Abroad for three years, mainly in Rome, he resolutely set himself the task of mastering the secrets of classical architecture.

Courageously—for times were uneasy—John began his own little practice. Contracts came from the home counties, and he would ride, all night if need be, over crude, snowbound roads. Ceaseless energy and study brought results.

At 35, having married, Soane quickly reached the highway to national acclaim. From 15 competitors he was appointed architect to the Bank of England—an architectural "plum."

Rebuilding this famous financial centre took 40 years. It was Soane's noblest work, and some of its walls are preserved in the present massive building.

Elsewhere, the hard-working architect designed country villas and the impressive Dulwich Art Gallery, so sadly blitzed in 1944. Parliament's great fire in 1834 ravaged his Westminster Law Courts, the Lords' royal gallery

and library. Gone, too, are his Privy Council and Board of Trade offices in Whitehall.

He had moved to a house on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields at 39, and for the next 44 years filled its galleries and rooms with his remarkable acquisitions. There, in a setting of beautiful furniture, visitors today see centuries-old drawings, models, maps, coins. Exquisite gems flash alongside the most unexpected relics.

The treasures are displayed, just as Soane planned, in exquisite apartments which he delighted to christen fancifully—the Monk's Cell, the Catacombs, Friar Giovanni's Parlour.

The pride of the collection are Hogarth's celebrated series—The Rake's Progress and The Election—and the 3000-year-old sarcophagus of Seti I, one of the great Pharaohs of Egypt.

Facing the shady gardens where City workers enjoy lunchtime tennis and netball, Sir John Soane's Museum is one of the most fascinating buildings in the whole of the Capital, and keeps his memory evergreen.



THE REAL ROBINSON CRUSOE—the strange life-story of Alexander Selkirk (1)

Alexander Selkirk, the mariner whose adventures inspired Daniel Defoe's immortal story, was born at Lower Largo in Fifeshire in 1676. His father was a

well-to-do tanner and cobbler, and a strict Presbyterian. The family name was Selcraig, but Alexander seems to have changed his to Selkirk when he joined the expedi-

tion that led to his exile on the Pacific island of Juan Fernandez. This picture version is based on, The Real Robinson Crusoe, by R. L. Mégron.



Alexander was his parents' seventh child and so, according to the old Scottish superstition, was supposed to be lucky and to have the gift of second sight. His mother, a romantic woman who believed in these notions, made a pet of him and gave him the idea that he was born to some high destiny. He grew up into a rather wild boy; but he was clever at school, especially at anything connected with navigation.



As a young man Alexander got into trouble in his village, and was sentenced to be publicly rebuked in the kirk. He had been a sailor since he was 19, and, returning from a voyage, was blamed for being the cause of a noisy quarrel in his house, which had led to fighting between him and his brothers. In resentment at what he thought an unjust humiliation, he resolved to go to sea again.



In 1703 he joined a privateering expedition of two ships led by Captain Dampier, who was authorised to capture enemy shipping in the War of the Spanish Succession. Selkirk was made sailing master (mate) of the little vessel, Cinque Ports. Dampier commanded her consort, the St. George. Together they crossed the Atlantic, rounded Cape Horn and stopped at Juan Fernandez Island for water.



Things had gone badly. The crew of the Cinque Ports hated their captain, Stradling, and several of them went ashore with their kit on Juan Fernandez intending to quit the ship. Selkirk, who had had a vivid dream that the Cinque Ports was wrecked, sided with them. Dampier pleaded with them to return. He pointed out that there was little chance of their being taken off the island by any passing ship.

Will Dampier persuade these desperate men to return to their ship? See next week's instalment

Thrilling new serial of mystery and adventure in Switzerland

DANGER MOUNTAIN

by Patrick Pringle

Jack and Robin Hilton are going with their parents to Switzerland. Near the town of Basle they see a man jump off the train shortly before the Customs officials make their inspection. After they have crossed the frontier the man suddenly returns to their compartment, in which he had left his briefcase.

2. Enter Dr. Marcus

THE man's briefcase was still lying on the seat as he had left it before they reached Basle. He put it on the luggage rack, and sat down.

"The Passport and Customs men have been," Jack told him.

"Thank you. I met them farther up the train," the man said. Then he closed his eyes and began to snore.

Robin caught Jack's eye and raised his eyebrows in inquiry, but Jack shook his head. Robin looked at his father, and saw that he was already asleep. Then Robin went to sleep himself.

He woke up when Jack shook him by the shoulder.

"Come on, we're here," he heard his brother say.

"Where?" Robin opened his eyes, and the glare of strong sunlight made him close them again. "What's the time?"

"Nearly twelve. Come on, we get out here."

"But I haven't had breakfast," complained Robin, suddenly wide awake. He saw the vacant place next to Jack. "The man's gone," he said.

Then he quite forgot all about breakfast and the man with the briefcase as he climbed down from the train and stepped straight onto a platform covered with hard, crunchy snow.

They were met by a porter from the hotel. He led them to a sledge drawn by two gaily-decorated horses, and the bells jingled merrily as they were drawn along the street to their hotel. There a self-operating lift took them up to their room, which had french windows opening onto a balcony.

A tap on the door

"Lots of snow but no one skiing," said Robin, looking out.

"Not enough slope here," his brother told him. "I expect—" He broke off as there was a tap on the door. "Come in."

The door opened, and a short, hick-set man stood there holding a small black attaché case. He spoke in a husky voice.

"Ich habe—entschuldigen Sie—I'm sorry. You are English, no?"

"Yes," said Jack.

"Is not this the room of Dr. Marcus? Number 83?"

"This is number 85. Number 83 must be the next one on the right."

"Oh. I'm sorry. The numbers are not clear." The husky-voiced man bowed himself out.

"Good job we've got a doctor handy," said Robin. "In case we break a leg or something. Are we going to unpack?"

"Mum said she'd do it after lunch. Let's just change into our ski-ing things. Oh, and I've got something to tell you. You remember that man on the train?"

"Yes," said Robin eagerly.

"Well, you were probably right about him."

"You mean he was a crook?"

"He got into Switzerland without having his passport examined. It was in his briefcase all the time. I saw it there among his papers just before we got into Basle."

"Where did he get out?" asked Robin.

"At Berne."

"Well, I knew he was a crook when he jumped off the train. If you'd listened to me then he wouldn't have got away so easily."

"He won't get away. I told Dad the whole story before we reached Berne. Then we went and told the police there."

"You might have woken me up," grumbled Robin. "What did the police say?"

"Nothing much, but I think they knew the chap from our description."

"I wonder how he got back on the train and dodged them."

"So do I. And I wonder why he had a passport at all if he didn't want to use it."

They were still wondering when they went down to lunch.

Their parents had not changed for ski-ing.

"We'll be with you at the ski school tomorrow morning," said Mr. Hilton at the end of the meal. "Now, don't go too far. Remember it gets dark soon after four."

Robin was first out of the dining-room, and he cornered fast. "Ouch!" said the middle-aged man who had the misfortune to be coming from the other direction.

"I'm awfully sorry," apologised Robin. "Did I hurt you?"

"Not badly." The man managed to smile. "Dr. Marcus."

"What?" said Jack.

"Dr. Marcus. My name." It was the way he spoke rather than his accent that showed he was not English.

"Oh, sorry. Our name's Hilton—he's Robin and I'm Jack."

"You have just arrived?" asked Dr. Marcus. He was dressed in a dark blue ski-ing outfit and carried a red woollen ski cap.

"We got here before lunch," Jack answered.

"We're going to the sports shop to hire our skis," added Robin.

"May I come with you? I must get some wax for my own skis."

"Yes, of course," said Jack. They fell into step. "I suppose you're pretty good?"

Choosing their skis

"I?" Dr. Marcus laughed. "You should ask my instructor, Anton. He says that almost anyone can learn to ski. I am the almost." He held the door open as they reached the hotel entrance.

"Have you been here long, sir?" asked Jack.

"Oh, yes, several weeks."

"Have you had much work to do?" asked Robin.

"Work?"

"Broken legs and things. You said you're a doctor, didn't you?"

Dr. Marcus laughed.

"Yes, but not a medical doctor. I am a doctor of philosophy."

"Oh," said Jack and Robin.

"A professor, you might say. But even professors have holidays and like sport."

"I suppose they do," said Robin doubtfully.

They reached the ski shop, and Mr. Becker, the proprietor, told them to choose their skis.

"Junge will help you," he added, as Jack and Robin stared helplessly at a whole forest of skis.

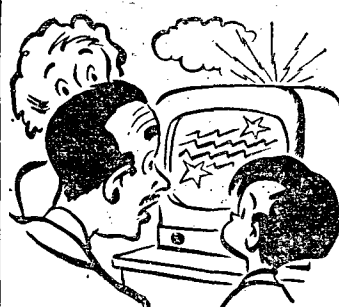
Junge, who looked about Jack's age and was also dressed for ski-ing, chose their skis. Then they took their boots off, and Mr. Becker adjusted the skis to fit them.

When Mr. Becker finished fitting the skis they put their boots on again, and Junge fetched them some ski sticks.

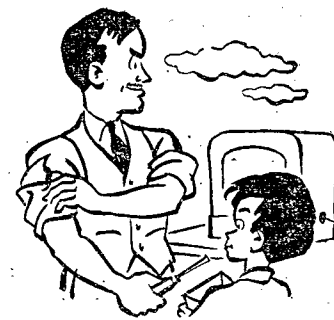
"Are you ready?"

"Yes," said Jack, and then went

Continued on page 10



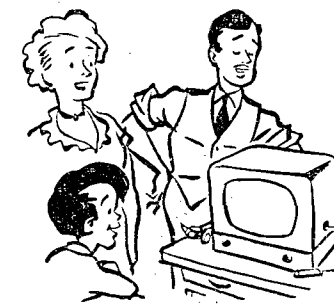
"Dad loves ...



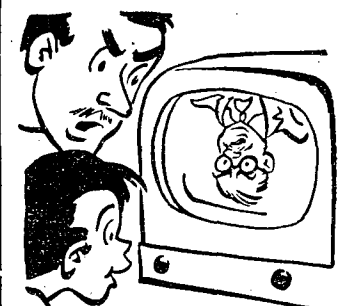
messing about ...



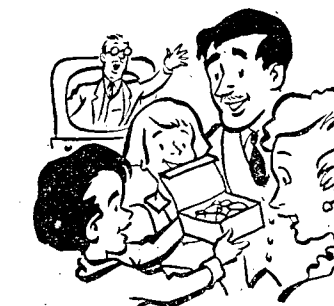
with TV ...



almost as much ...

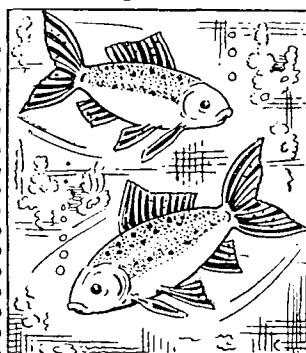


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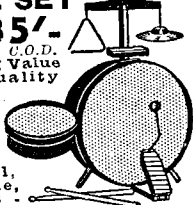
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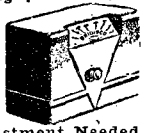
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SPORTS SHORTS

A CYCLING record that has defied all challengers since 1938 has been broken by Ken Joy, 30-year-old professional. It is the British 100 miles record, which he has captured with a time of 3 hours 45 minutes 39 seconds.

Two years ago Bobby Wilson, of the Finchley Manor tennis club, won the under-15 junior talent-finding tournament at Queen's Club, and went on to become the youngest player to be chosen for England's Davis Cup team. This year the title was won by 15-year-old David Gordon, who comes from the same club. The girls' title was won by Christine Truman, who is only 12. Christine, who lives at Woodford Green, Essex, is regarded as one of England's greatest lawn tennis prospects.

Two years ago the CN mentioned the football prowess and promise of Gerald Ward, the Leytonstone Schools outside-left who played in five schoolboy internationals, and for the F.A. Youth XI. Recently, at the age of 16, he made his debut with Arsenal's first team. He is still an amateur and works on Arsenal's ground staff.

DAVID BEARD, 20-year-old South Herts golfer, studied music as a lad, expecting to follow in the footsteps of his famous father, Paul Beard, leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. But David made such swift progress at golf that he decided to adopt the game as his career. He will be taking part in the Match-Play Championship which begins at Ganton next week.

DOREEN TAYLOR, 13-year-old schoolgirl of Ilford, has come into the swimming limelight almost by accident. Deputising for British international Valerie Harris, she beat the Dutch Olympic swimmer Tonny Hom and lowered the 100-yards Essex junior record to 79 seconds.

ERNEST KIRKUP, 21-year-old stonemason, set out on his motor-cycle one Friday evening last month to ride from his home in Mexborough to London. He arrived at the White City at 1 a.m., slept in the dressing room, and next day won the three-mile race at the British Workers' championships, in the record time of 14 minutes 37.8 seconds.

Ring-master



Young Pam Cockaday, of Norwich, practises on the rings during a course for gymnasts at Bisham Abbey in Buckinghamshire.

R. G. WOODCOCK, outstanding Worcester schoolboy cricketer, who has been mentioned already in CN, brought a very successful season to an end when he was chosen to captain the English Schools XI against Wales, at Worcester. He played a real skipper's part, scoring 40 and taking five of the Welsh wickets for 26 runs.

THIS season is the Golden Jubilee of the English Schools Football Association.

DANGER MOUNTAIN

Continued from page 9

red. Becker was making out a bill.

"How long do you want the skis for?" he asked.

"A week. But—"

"Then with the deposit it will be twenty francs each."

"I'll have to go back and get some money," said Jack. "I forgot to ask Dad—"

"Don't waste your time now," Dr. Marcus broke in. "Please allow me to pay, and you can settle with me later."

"I say, that's awfully decent of you—"

"It is nothing." Dr. Marcus gave some notes to Becker. "And have a good time."

"Thanks awfully."

They went out with Junge, who showed them how to carry their skis and sticks over their shoulders. They walked back to their hotel, and Junge led them up a path by the side of the building. It brought them out on the open space they had looked out at from their bedroom window.

"This is quite a gentle slope," said Junge.

"It looks steep to me," murmured Jack. "Oh, well, come on."

They walked to the top of the slope. Then Junge helped them to put their skis on, and they glided forward cautiously.

"Try to bend your knees," said Junge. "Push with your sticks—that's right. Are you ready to go down the slope?"

Jack looked down towards the hotel.

"It's a bit steep," he said doubtfully. "What do I do?"

"Keep your skis together, bend your knees, and lean forward. If you lean back you will fall, but it won't hurt."

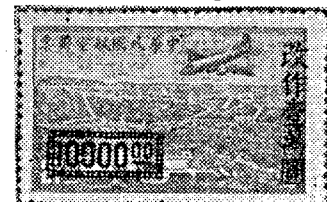
"Thanks very much. Oh, well, here goes."

Jack pushed off with his sticks, nearly lost his balance as his skis shot forward alarmingly, and then recovered and gathered speed as he started to go down.

"He's going to fall!" exclaimed Robin.

To be continued

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The Children's Newspaper, September 12, 1953

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THE PERFECTION OF CONFECTIONS

HERCULES IN THE EVENING SKY

By the CN Astronomer

THE great constellation of Hercules may now be found high in the south-west sky as soon as it becomes dark.

Its singular trapezium of stars, extending from almost overhead for a considerable distance to the south-west, will be readily recognised from the accompanying star map. These, the chief stars of Hercules, are of medium brightness, that is, of apparently third magnitude, although vast differences exist in their actual sizes.

Alpha, the leading star, is also known by its ancient Arabic name of Ras Algethi (the word Ras signifying that it is situated at the head of this figure of Hercules). We thus realise that the constellation of Hercules is now presented upside down in the sky, although this was not always so.

WAXING AND WANING

Owing to the vast distance of Alpha (22,800,000 times farther than our Sun) it does not appear as bright as Antares, but interferometer measurements have shown that it has an average diameter of 345,400,000 miles, and is therefore the nearest measured rival to Antares. Antares reaches a diameter of about 389 million miles but does not remain at this, diminishing periodically to about 285 million miles.

Alpha - in - Hercules, or as astronomers say, "Alpha Herculis," is also a colossal furnace of fire mist, waxing and waning at regular intervals of about 120 days.

In the course of this Alpha's radiation of light and heat varies from about 300 times greater than that of our Sun to about 620 times greater, at which size it has a diameter of about 400 times greater than that of our Sun.

This huge sun has also a very much smaller "companion" sun which may revolve round it; but even this companion radiates about 75 times more light than our

Sun. It appears of only sixth magnitude and is of bluish-green tint, thus resembling the well-known companion of Antares.

Of the six stars forming the trapezium, Zeta is the nearest and most interesting, being about 1,835,400 times farther away than our Sun. It consists of a solar system with a sun very similar to our own, and only slightly larger.

At an average distance of 1135 million miles, is another and much

smaller planetary body which is still in the flaming condition that our world was some 2000 million years ago. This far-off planetary body takes 35 years to revolve round its central sun as compared with 84 years and six days of Uranus round our Sun.

Delta is also composed of two stars which may constitute a solar system. At present they appear to be approaching each other. The chief star is a sun radiating about 22 times more light than our Sun but from a distance about 4,450,000 times farther away, its light taking 70 years to reach us.

GREAT SUNS

Eta is about 112 light-years distant, and Beta about 125 light-years distant, while Epsilon is about 142 light-years journey from us, and Pi 155 light-years away. All are very much larger suns than ours.

In the position indicated by M. 13 on the star map is one of the most wonderful objects in the Heavens—a colossal cluster of upwards of 100,000 suns. Their light takes about 35,000 years to reach us and appears, even through binoculars, only as a tiny misty patch of luminosity.

G. F. M.

ROUGH RIDER

In the late summer many Alberta towns have rodeos and stampedes, and all the people take a holiday to watch local ranch-



hands ride unbroken horses, rope calves, and race in chuckwagons. The cowboy shown here, at a Ponoka rodeo, rode his bronco for the required eight seconds before they parted company.

WEDDING CAT

Many Londoners are mourning the passing of Blackie, war orphan cat who always attended weddings at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, and was an ever-welcome guest because he was jet black.

Blackie became an orphan in 1940 when his home in the nearby Post Office was bombed. He made his home the war-damaged church and was cared for by church workers, passers-by, and the chef of a neighbouring hotel.

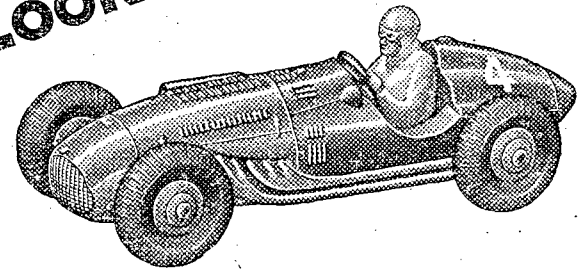
He has now been laid to rest in a corner of the Garden of Remembrance at St. James's.

CN PRIZEWINNERS

In Competition No. 33, the ten £1 prizes for the nearest correctly completed crossword squares were awarded to: Dudley Austin, Swansea; Sheila Bettany, Stoke; Colin Buckland, Somerton; Susan Chapman, Farnborough; David Dixon, Bournemouth; Margaret Gibson, Haslemere; Suzanne Maiden, Stockport; Roger Muncaster, Oldham; Michael Starling, Reigate; David Tonkiss, Birmingham 13.



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